

B. Patrick Bauer

State Representative • District 6

1999 Session of the Indiana General Assembly

State budget provides tax cuts, funding for education

As chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, I authored the biennial state budget bill. The new state budget will make a very real difference in the lives of many Hoosiers. Some of the highlights include:

Program Funding

- Public education: Statewide total formula funding increase of an average of 4.7 percent in calendar years 2000 and 2001, with minimum guarantees of funding increases of at least 2.5%. Funding was increased for both at-risk and academic honors programs. Local schools and libraries also received \$76 million in technology funding.
- CHOICE: \$5 million increase per year in funding for home health care for the elderly
- Higher education: appropriations were increased by 7.0 percent in fiscal year 2000 and 4.7 percent in 2001
- Vocational education: incentives for school corporations to provide programs in which high employment demand exists
- A new \$50 million 21st Century Research and Technology Fund that will promote high-tech industries located in Indiana
- Social services: Funding for the seriously mentally ill is increased by \$3 million in 2000 and \$6 million in 2001. MRDD programs will receive an additional \$39 million in funding during the biennium.

Savings to Taxpayers

- Elimination of county welfare fund and county welfare administration funds from local property taxes (two-year savings: \$67.6 million)
- Elimination of inventory tax for 87 percent of farms and businesses (two-year savings: \$129.6 million)



Rep. Bauer addresses members of the House.

Additional \$200 million approved for Indiana roads

I was pleased we appropriated an additional \$200 million from the state general fund for local roads over the next two years. This is in addition to the regular funding from gas taxes. Many of you have indicated your strong desire to see us make more road improvements throughout the state.

The breakdown for our district is: St. Joseph County -- \$4.3 million; South Bend -- \$3.3 million and Mishawaka -- \$1.2 million. The amounts for each city are in addition to the total for the county. The amount appropriated to each city is based on the population of the city.

Hoosiers will save \$672 million over the next two years in tax cuts

- Homeowners: a new income tax deduction for property taxes up to \$2500
- Senior citizens: an increase in the income tax deduction from \$1000 to \$1500 and an increase in the property tax deduction from \$1000 to \$2000
- Dependent children: an increase in the income tax deduction from \$1000 to \$2500
- Small businesses: property tax “add-back” repealed so business owners can deduct the amount of their property taxes from their state income taxes
- Renters: increased the income tax deduction from \$1500 to \$2000

Education

ISTEP Gateway Examination -- House Enrolled Act 1050 allows students who do not pass the ISTEP Gateway Examination to graduate, provided they meet certain other requirements. The legislation also provides that the case conference committee determines eligibility for graduation of certain students with disabilities. The act also provides that all students in Grade 10 must take the examination.

Educational Standards -- A roundtable has been created to develop educational standards for Indiana students. Standards would be set for each grade level, easily comparable to national and international standards, written in an easy-to-understand manner, and distributed to students and parents.

Postsecondary Proprietary Education Grants -- Combines the higher education award program for students at postsecondary proprietary educational institutions with the award program for students at other institutions of higher learning.



Rep. Bauer confers with colleagues on the House floor.

Funding for District 6

I worked with Republicans and Democrats in the House and the Senate to secure funding for many local projects.

Transportation

Transpo Amtrak Station -- \$1.5 million

Higher Education

IUSB Student Activities Center -- \$15.7 million

IU Regional Medical Center Building -- \$10 million

IUSB Technology Funds -- \$1.6 million

IUSB Facilities Maintenance -- \$406,551

IUSB Special Equity Funding -- \$262,776

Build Indiana Projects

Studebaker Museum -- \$250,000

Morris Civic Center -- \$150,000

Center for Homeless -- \$125,000

Potawatomi Zoological Society -- \$50,000

Urban League of South Bend / St. Joseph County -- \$25,000

South Bend Foundation Colfax Campus -- \$490,000

St. Joseph County Road / Drainage Projects -- \$300,000

St. Joseph County Center Township Volunteer Fire Department -- \$100,000

Portage Township Volunteer Fire Department -- \$90,000

South Bend Black Expo for Youth Program -- \$20,000

St. Joseph County Old Courthouse Restoration -- \$300,000

St. Joseph County Juvenile Justice Center -- \$75,000

St. Joseph County Military Park -- \$50,000

How to Contact Representative

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Call the Statehouse Toll-Free
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House publications available

The following publications can be requested free of charge from my Statehouse office by calling toll-free 1-800-382-9842:

Relax . . . -- This informational booklet for senior citizens discusses a variety of issues, from taxes to health problems to leisure activities.

Higher Education -- A 24-page publication for those interested in pursuing a higher education degree, detailing many Indiana colleges and universities as well as occupational and vocational schools.

Guide to State Agencies -- This booklet details various agencies within Indiana state government, listing phone numbers, functions and general areas of responsibility for each of the state agencies.

Hoosier Fun and Facts -- Designed for elementary school-aged children, this information and activity book teaches students about their state through a combination of text, puzzles and other educational activities.

Is the address label on this mailing correct?

Please check the address label on this mailing for accuracy. If there are any errors or if you are receiving duplicate mailings, please contact my office at 1-800-382-9842. Every effort will be made to correct the mistake.

I appreciate your assistance in keeping the mailing list updated. This will ultimately result in more efficient delivery and substantial savings to taxpayers across the state.

State Phone Numbers

State Information	1-800-457-8283
Indiana House	1-800-382-9842
Indiana Senate.	1-800-382-9467
Governor's Office.	317-232-4567
Secretary of State	317-232-6531
Motor Vehicles.	317-233-6000
Natural Resources.	1-800-622-4931
Utility Regulatory.	1-800-851-4268
State Tourism	1-800-289-6646
Department of Correction. .	1-800-680-5889
Department of Education . .	317-232-6611
Department of Health	317-233-1325
Family & Social Services . .	317-233-4454

Bauer works to include safe schools projects in budget

As the author of the state budget bill, I was pleased that we were able to provide almost \$9 million in funding for Indiana’s safe schools programs.

Although Indiana has been fortunate to not have a major incident like the recent tragedy in Colorado, our schools face difficult safety issues like all other schools in the country.

Indiana’s Safe Haven initiative provides funding to keep schools open for extended hours for programs to reduce substance abuse, reduce violent behavior, and promote educational progress. Schools open before and after the regular class day provide a safe place for children who would otherwise be home alone.

The program also provides funding for emergency preparedness and school safety programs. Our schools are facing more potential for

violence and disruptive incidences than ever before.

The new state budget also provides \$750,000 to train school safety specialists. It is important for schools to have the training to be able to identify and correct problems before trouble occurs.

One of the key components of the state safe school initiative is the coordination of safe school programs county-wide. The new state budget provides each school corporation with \$2000 to be used to participate in a county school safety commission.

While our schools cannot and should not become prison-like facilities, we must do whatever we can to protect our children from violence in society — especially when they are in the classrooms preparing for their futures.